

**BOARD OF HEARING AND SPEECH  
MEETING MINUTES FOR  
May 2, 2003**

**LOCATION:**     **Spokane Falls Community College  
Falls Room Building #1  
3410 West Fort George Wright Dr MS 3174  
Spokane WA 99204-5288**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**     Kimberly Coy, Chair  
Lynn Byrne  
Rudy Gahler, M.D.  
Holly Seifert  
Don Nelson  
Penny Allen  
Kenneth Pope  
Laurie Anderson

**STAFF PRESENT:**               T. Diane Young, Deputy Executive Director  
Kitty Slater, Program Manager  
Sharon E. Strachan, Acting Administrative Assistant

**AAG PRESENT:**                 Gene Pearce, AAG Advisor

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Kimberly Coy, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. The meeting agenda was approved as presented. The previous meeting (January 2003) minutes were approved as presented.

**2. UPDATE/DISCUSSION OF HEARING ASSISTANCE FOR BOARD MEETINGS**

T. Diane Young provided the Board a memo from Robert Nicoloff, with an update regarding assisted listening devices. Ms. Young stated that the listening devices are expected to be purchased and available at the August Board meeting. The Board thanked Mr. Nicoloff for his assistance.

### **3. PROGRAM REPORT**

Kitty Slater provided the Board with current licensing statistics. The current statistics show 283 licensed fitter/dispensers, 311 licensed audiologists, 16 audiology interim permit holders, 950 licensed speech-language pathologists, 39 speech-language pathology interim permit holders.

Diane Young provided the Board a copy of the Hearing and Speech Interim Operating Report. It was reported that the move from voluntary certification to mandatory licensure has significantly increased the Board's revenue. Members of the Board requested that the balance after expenditures be closely monitored by the program manager during the 2003/2005 biennium, and that the manager assess the amount of the licensing fees.

Ms. Slater updated the Board regarding the relocation of agency offices that took place the end of March. It was explained that the new Health Provider Licensure Look-up became available to the public online on April 15, 2003.

### **4. DISCUSSION REGARDING BOARD COMPOSITION**

There was discussion regarding whether there was adequate representation of public members on the Board. Diane Young explained that there may not be for other Boards and the question was posed to all for feedback. After Board discussion, it was agreed that three (3) public members were adequate for this Board.

### **5. REVIEW AND DISCUSS DRAFT 2003/2005 BOARD BUSINESS PLAN**

Diane Young provided an updated business plan the Board put together for 2003/2005. After Board's review, a motion was made:

Motion: Holly Seifert motioned to adopt the amended Board Business Plan. Seconded by Kenneth Pope. Motion carried by all present. Ms. Young will provide a copy of the 2003/2005 Board of Hearing and Speech Business Plan prior to the next meeting.

The Board reviewed and made the following additions/amendments to their objectives:

Require successful completion of national examination for hearing instrument fitter/dispenser, audiologist and speech-language pathologist applicants

Amend: Complete amendments to WAC 246-828-020 to eliminate the requirement that candidates for audiology licensure complete the hearing instrument fitter/dispenser examination by September 2003. (Changed date from December 2002)

Maintain current education standards

Add: Implement rules, requiring licensed audiologists and speech-language pathologists to complete continuing education prior to license renewal

Reduce disciplinary actions and continue to educate consumers and credential holders on statutes and rules regulation the hearing and speech professions

Amend: Update the Consumer Rights brochure, distribute annually to hearing instrument fitter/dispensers, audiologists, speech-language pathologists and consumer groups and upon request.

Add: Provide notification of disciplinary actions to state and national professional associations

## **6. COMPLAINT/DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE REPORT**

Lynn Byrne reported that the disciplinary case load as of May 2, 2003 includes, 11 open cases; of those cases, 1 case is in assessment, 4 cases are in investigations, and 6 cases in disposition.

Ms. Byrne also reported that the Board's Complaint/Disciplinary Committee reviewed 3 cases and made the following decisions:

### Initial Assessment Decisions

2002-03-0002 closed below threshold/no violation

2002-11-0002 closed below threshold/no violation.

2003-03-0003 conduct an investigation

### Case Disposition Decisions

2002-11-0001 & 2002-03-0003 (same respondent) Issue a Statement of Charges.

## **7. RULES COMMITTEE REPORT**

Lynn Byrne provided an update regarding the status of rules the Board has in process at this time. WAC 246-828-020 Examination- The CR101 has been filed and we are in the review and

Legislation Implementation-

comment stage with the department. The CR102 should be filed this month and a hearing date set for August 15, 2003. These are exception amendments, we are in the review and comment stage with the department. The CR102 should also be filed this month and a hearing date set for August 15, 2003.

New WAC hearing instrument fitter/dispenser two-year degree program approval-

A public workgroup was held on May 1, 2003 at Spokane Falls Community College to begin the rule development process. The CR101 was filed in December 2001. We will now move to the review and comment stage.

WAC 246-828-500,510,530,550-

The Committee agreed to proceed with development suggested amendments to require continuing education for audiologists and speech-language pathologists.

## **8. EXAMINATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT**

Donald Nelson stated that the Board is in the process of renewing the contract with the International Institute of Hearing Instrument Studies (IIHIS) for administering the hearing instrument fitter/dispenser licensing examination.

Mr. Nelson reported that at the March 19, 2003 examination, there were a total of 23 candidates who sat for the examination. Of the 23, 19 passed and 4 failed.

## **9. PUBLIC INFORMATION/RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT**

Penny Allen and the committee continue to work with Bob Nicoloff in obtaining assisted listening devices for Board meetings. The Consumer Rights brochure will be reviewed and updated by the committee.

## **10. DISCUSSION: Policies/Interpretive Statements**

- A. The Board reviewed the request for clarification regarding immittance measures and cerumen management submitted by Dennis Van Vliet of HearUSA. After discussion, the issue of immittance measures was referred to the Board's Rules Committee for consideration, and the issue of cerumen management is clear in RCW 18.35.010 (3) and (9). Diane Young was directed to respond to Mr. Van Vliet .
- B. The Board reviewed the request for clarification regarding speech-language pathologists performing Electrical Stimulation for Swallowing submitted by Lesley Mateer of CIAO. After discussion, it was determined that this issue is addressed in WAC 246-828-105. Diane Young was directed to respond to Lesley Mateer.
- C. The Board reviewed the request for clarification regarding the sale of programmable device, called the Speech Easy, that provides delayed auditory feedback and frequency altered feedback for use in habiting speech dysfluency or stuttering, submitted by Denise Welch of Group Health. After discussion, it was determined that more information was needed before the Board could provide a response to the requestor. Gene Pearce, AAG Advisor, was asked to research this device and report back to the Board. Diane Young was directed to respond to Denise Welch.
- D. The Board reviewed the request for clarification regarding Swallowing Assessment/Evaluation vs. Swallowing Screening, submitted by Denice Milholland of Swedish Medical Center. After discussion, it was determined that the Board's response may require consultation with the Nursing Quality Assurance Commission (NQAC). Laurie Anderson and Holly Seifert will represent the Board in consultations. Diane Young was directed to coordinate the consultation with NQAC and respond to Denice Milholland.

## **11. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Dick Miller, a student at Spokane Falls Community College stated that at graduation, students are no longer part of the Hearing Instrument Studies program at the college. While they are students, they are exempt from licensure under WAC 246-828-075. However, there is a period of time after they complete the Spokane Falls program and when their official transcripts are available to complete the licensure requirements, in which these new graduates are unable to make a living. Mr. Miller asked the Board how they are doing with expediting licensure for graduates this June.

## **12. OTHER ISSUES**

As a result of Mr. Miller's comments the Board will consult with AAG advisor regarding ways to expedite licensure for new graduates.

## **13. REVIEW OF MEETING**

Kitty Slater reviewed Board decisions made at this meeting.

## **14. PLANNING FOR NEXT MEETING**

Due to not being able to locate a facility in Winthrop, the next board meeting will be held at Point Plaza East in Tumwater on August 15, 2003.

## **15. ADJOURMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 2:33 pm.

Recorder: \_\_\_\_\_  
Sharon E. Strachan, Acting Administrative Assistant

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_  
T. Diane Young, Deputy Executive Director

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Kimberly Coy, Chair

These minutes are to be reviewed and corrected at the next board meeting and will not be redistributed unless substantial errors or omissions are identified.